**Worship Plan for Sunday, April 24, 2022** **\* Second Sunday of Easter**

**Introduction to the day**

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus’ victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE**: **Wounded Healer**

The Sunday after Easter can feel a little bit like a crash, a return to normalcy after a day of unmatched celebration. And yet this is where we live most of our lives: not in celebration, but struggling to make ends meet, doing our best to love our imperfect partners and kids, holding on to our faith in humanity when people do terrible things, and dealing with our own kinds of adversity, hurt, and loss. This is why we need to hear from the one who missed everything, the one who still has a lot of questions, the one who is not afraid to open up about his own doubt and fear.

It’s revealing that the one thing Thomas asks to see is Jesus’ scars. He is not looking for another miracle or celebration. His connection to Jesus is through his humanity, through his suffering, through the things that Thomas could identify with and understand.

Very often when we are at a crossroads of being trapped in our grief, depression, or anger on the one hand and the possibility of moving through on the other, the only person we can really trust is someone who has been there before, someone who has walked the road we are traveling and lived to tell about it.

That’s why Christ stands among us today not as one who has finally escaped our humanity but as one who is still identified by those marks of love and sacrifice. We see in his wounds a reflection of our own pain. When we gather at the table to see and touch for ourselves, we know that the risen life he extends to us is real. No matter how many times we missed it the first time, Jesus reaches out to include us in the promise of Easter: “Here is my body, here is my blood. Do not doubt, but believe.”

And we, for the first or the thousandth time, reply, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28).

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Greeting**

Welcome to worship today, we are glad to have you with our Faith Lutheran Church community. I'm Pr. John Barton and I will be leading our service today.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Announcements**

Monday, the 25th: Remembering & Honoring meets at 10:00 in person; Council meets at 1:00 in person and Zoom

Wednesday, the 27th: Ken Borchmann’s Celebration of Life at 2:00 in the sanctuary

Thursday, the 28th: Bible Study is at 2:00 in person and Zoom; Outreach meets at 3:30 in person

Friday, the 29th: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. Thank you!

**And now please turn to page 369**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song:***Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia!***(ELW 369)**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit’s breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading:** Acts 5:27-32

27When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, 28saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” 29But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. 30The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. 32And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalmody:** PSALM 118:14-29

14The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.

15**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!**

16The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!”

17**I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.**

18The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

19**Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

20“This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter.”

21**I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**

22The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23**By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

24This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25**Hosanna! O Lord, save us! We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!**

26Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

27**The Lord is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**

28You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

29**Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God’s mercy endures forever.**

**Second Reading:** Revelation 1:4-8

4John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, 6and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 8“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**: **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Gospel:** John 20:19-31

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

19When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” 24But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” 26A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 27Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” 28Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” 30Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**And now please turn to page 387**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day:***O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing (alternate text)* (ELW 387)

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Pastor and Assisting Minister: Prayers of Intercession**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Holy One who acts righteously, equip your church as witnesses of your goodness to go and tell others of your abundant love, that they may believe that Jesus is our salvation and life. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Renew your people’s commitment to use resources responsibly and to live well with your creation. Invite us to recognize and nurture signs of resurrection life in the natural world. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Direct those who are given human authority to lead with humility and compassion. By your Holy Spirit channel their attention toward serving those who are most in need. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Uphold your children who cry out to you (especially). Wherever people are overcome by the fear of death, breathe into them your life and peace. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Inspire those who lead your people in worship and praise (especially the art and music ministries of this congregation). With joyful motion and sound, send us forth with praise that we cannot keep to ourselves. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Give us the words of your saints who, like Thomas, boldly confessed your Son as Lord and God. With Jesus our leader, empower us to live according to his ways. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Prayer List**

Susan Aldrich; Gloria Anderson; the family of Ken Borchmann; Arnette Calkins; Luca Candela; Julie Chevraux; Robin Connelly; Daniel Conner; Vicki Crow; Sally Duncan; Joni Gray; Kally Homchick; Marlon Jay; Loni Knowles; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Sheila Neal; Ron and Esther Neumen; Andrew Quinn; Emily Rasmussen; JoAnne Schriock; Dee Seel; Jan Simon; Amy Sinclair; Dennis Sutherland; Earlean Wagner; Diana Ward; Bernie Weston; Mary Yturralde; the homebound; the Emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests.  We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost loved ones.  At this time we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offering**

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship. Thank you so much for all the ways you give and help to make the ministries of this church possible!

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**And now please turn to page 366 for the Musical Offering**

**MUSICAL OFFERING*:*** *The Strife is O’er The Battle Done* (ELW 366)

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

 Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Preface (ELW p. 153)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow’r and might: Heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

Now, I invite you to gather bread and drink for communion and share with anyone in your household.

As a note, it helps to take the wafer off first then the juice separately afterward.

Gathering at Christ's table, we trust in God's all-reaching power and grace to provide each one of us the complete and total sacrament in these extraordinary times.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With [  name/s and  ] your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

**And now please turn to page 344**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song:***All Glory, Laud, and Honor* (ELW 344)

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER: Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Invitation**

The Church Council Members and I would like to invite guests and visitors to come and meet us in the narthex as you exit so that we can meet and welcome you.

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